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PEOPLE OF FABLED EBONSHIRE--
-- AND THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE JOURNEYED 'CROSS EURASIA TO THIS HOLIEST OF HAVENS!
TODAY IS A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER.
SOME TWO THOUSAND YEARS HENCE, THERE WILL BE A UNIQUE CEREMONY.
MADAME SANCTITY -- ONE OF THE LAST OF THE MYSTERIOUSLY POWERFUL PSIONS KNOWN AS THE CLAN ASKANI -- WILL PRESIDE.
HER NOVITIATE, ALIYA, WILL BE PRESENT -- NO TRUER TEST OF HER LOYALTY HAS SHE YET ENDURED.
OATH!
FOR ALL THE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE WILL BE IN THE NAME OF ONE YOUNG MAN.
NATHAN DAYSPRING.
A MUTANT.
GIFTED WITH AWESOME POWERS OF TELEPATHY AND TELEKINESIS, HERE HE WILL TAKE BUT THE FIRST STEP OF A LIFE-LONG QUEST.
ONE WHICH WILL INEVITABLY TRANSCEND TIME AND BRING HIM TO OUR ERA --
-- AS THE WARRIOR CALLED CABLE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS THE EARLY YEARS OF THE MAN CALLED CABLE

A BRIGHT AND SHINING LIGHT

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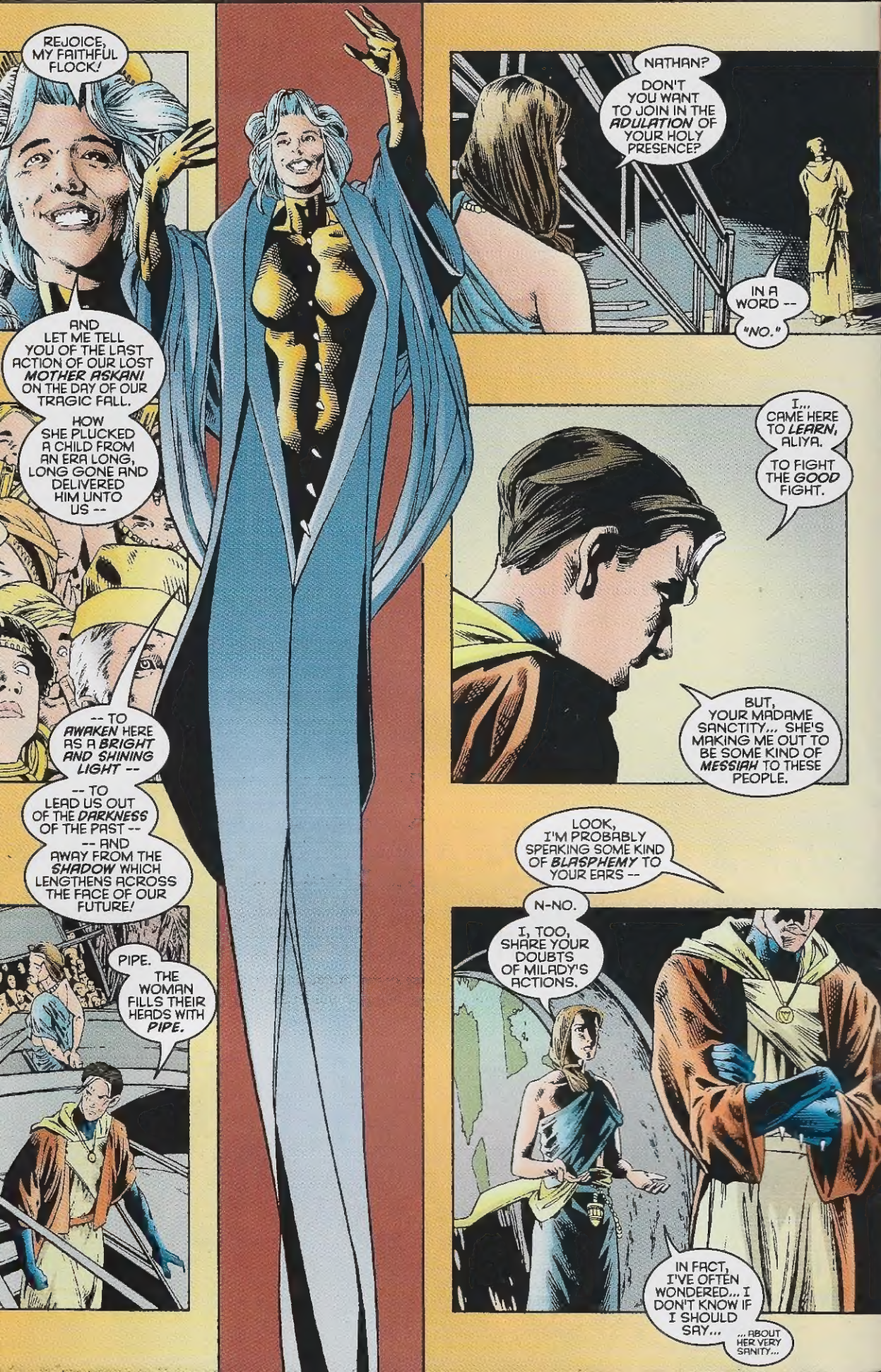
REJOICE, MY FAITHFUL FLOCK!
AND LET ME TELL YOU OF THE LAST ACTION OF OUR LOST MOTHER ASKANI ON THE DAY OF OUR TRAGIC FALL.
HOW SHE PLUCKED A CHILD FROM AN ERA LONG, LONG GONE AND DELIVERED HIM UNTO US --
-- TO AWAKEN HERE AS A BRIGHT AND SHINING LIGHT --
-- TO LEAD US OUT OF THE DARKNESS OF THE PAST --
-- AND AWAY FROM THE SHADOW WHICH LENGTHENS ACROSS THE FACE OF OUR FUTURE!
PIPE.
THE WOMAN FILLS THEIR HEADS WITH PIPE.
NATHAN?
DON'T YOU WANT TO JOIN IN THE ADULATION OF YOUR HOLY PRESENCE?
IN A WORD --
"NO."
I... CAME HERE TO LEARN, ALIYA.
TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.
BUT, YOUR MADAME SANCTITY... SHE'S MAKING ME OUT TO BE SOME KIND OF MESSIAH TO THESE PEOPLE.
LOOK, I'M PROBABLY SPEAKING SOME KIND OF BLASPHEMY TO YOUR EARS --
N-NO.
I, TOO, SHARE YOUR DOUBTS OF MILADY'S ACTIONS.
IN FACT, I'VE OFTEN WONDERED... I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD SAY...
...ABOUT HER VERY SANITY...

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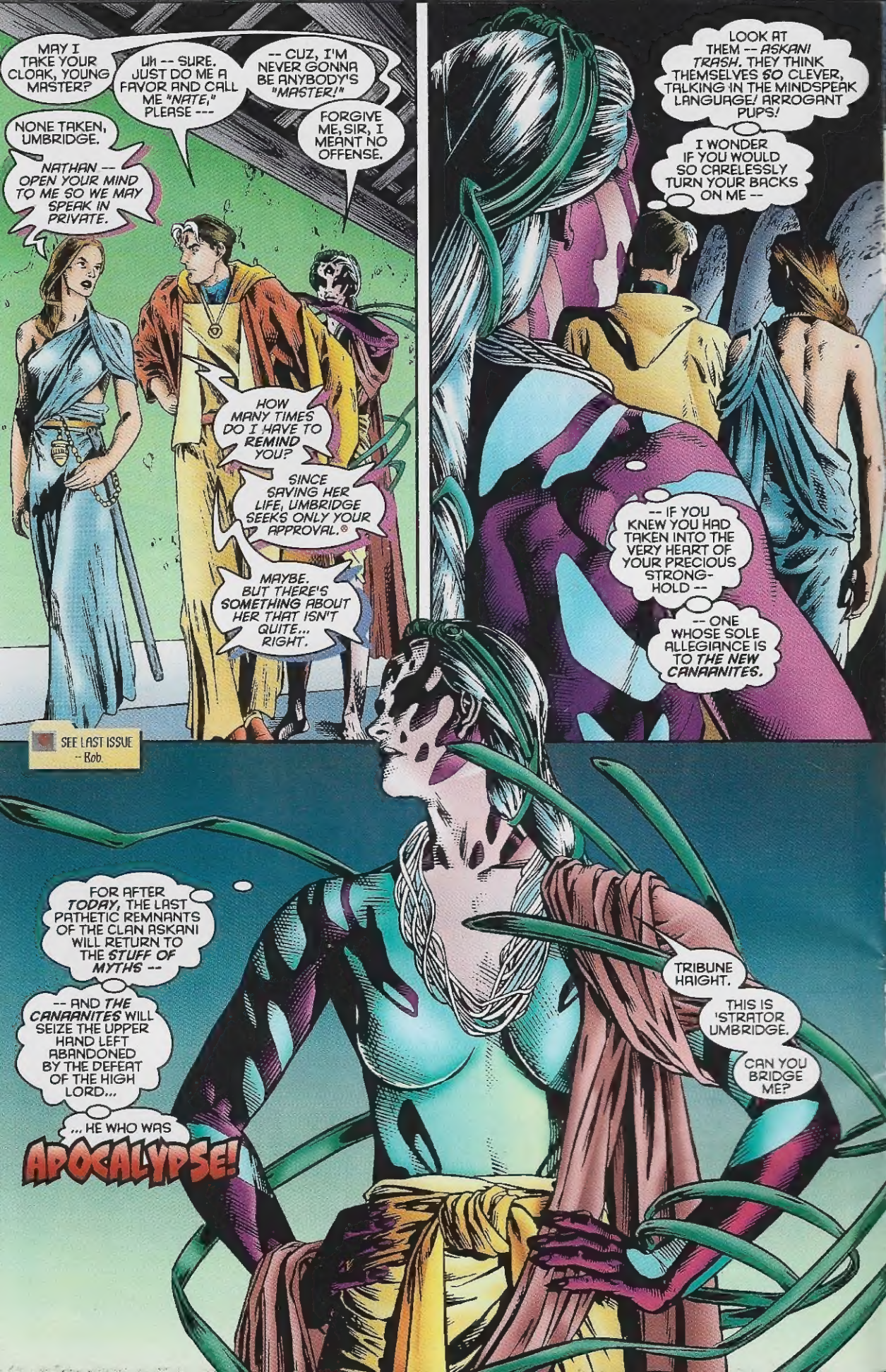
MAY I TAKE YOUR CLOAK, YOUNG MASTER?
Uh -- SURE. JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND CALL ME "NATE," PLEASE ---
-- CUZ, I'M NEVER GONNA BE ANYBODY'S "MASTER!"
FORGIVE ME, SIR, I MEANT NO OFFENSE.
NONE TAKEN, UMBRIDGE.
NATHAN -- OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME SO WE MAY SPEAK IN PRIVATE.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REMIND YOU?
SINCE SAVING HER LIFE, UMBRIDGE SEEKS ONLY YOUR APPROVAL.
MAYBE. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT ISN'T QUITE... RIGHT.
SEE LAST ISSUE -- Rob.
LOOK AT THEM -- ASKANI TRASH. THEY THINK THEMSELVES SO CLEVER, TALKING IN THE MINDSPEAK LANGUAGE! ARROGANT PUPS!
I WONDER IF YOU WOULD SO CARELESSLY TURN YOUR BACKS ON ME --
-- IF YOU KNEW YOU HAD TAKEN INTO THE VERY HEART OF YOUR PRECIOUS STRONG-HOLD --
-- ONE WHOSE SOLE ALLEGIANCE IS TO THE NEW CANAANITES.
FOR AFTER TODAY, THE LAST PATHETIC REMNANTS OF THE CLAN ASKANI WILL RETURN TO THE STUFF OF MYTHS --
-- AND THE CANAANITES WILL SEIZE THE UPPER HAND LEFT ABANDONED BY THE DEFEAT OF THE HIGH LORD...
... HE WHO WAS APOCALYPSE!
TRIBUNE HAIGHT.
THIS IS 'STRATOR UMBRIDGE.
CAN YOU BRIDGE ME?

HALFWAY ACROSS THE GREAT SEA...
THE CANAANITE FLEET -- AN ARMADA THE LIKES OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS NOT SEEN SINCE THE FALL OF THE MAD DESPOT APOCALYPSE --
-- HASTENS ON ITS PATH TO EBONSHIRE.
I BRIDGE YOU, 'STRATOR.
ALTHOUGH YOUR NAVIGATIONAL SIGNAL IS QUITE FAINT.
I DARE NOT TRANSMIT ON A HIGHER FREQUENCY, SIR, WITHOUT RISK OF DETECTION.
IT MATTERS LITTLE, UMBRIDGE.
WITHIN HOURS WE WILL MAKE THE CLOISTER SLAUGHTER OF YEARS PAST --
-- WHERE THE HATED ASKANI MOTHER HERSELF DIED --
-- LOOK LIKE A PEASANT'S PICNIC!

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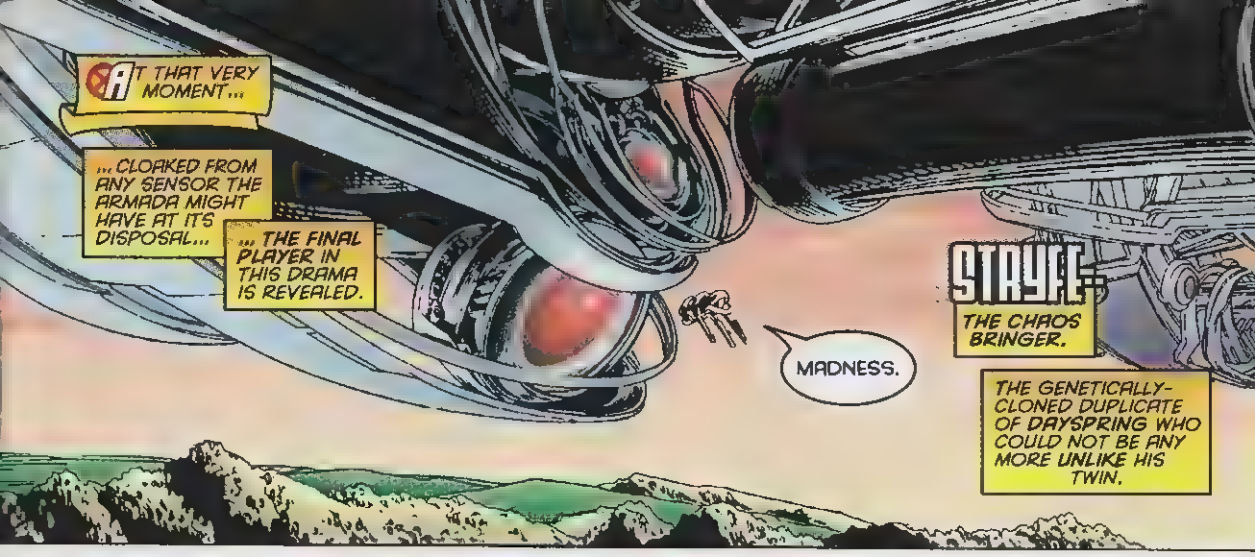
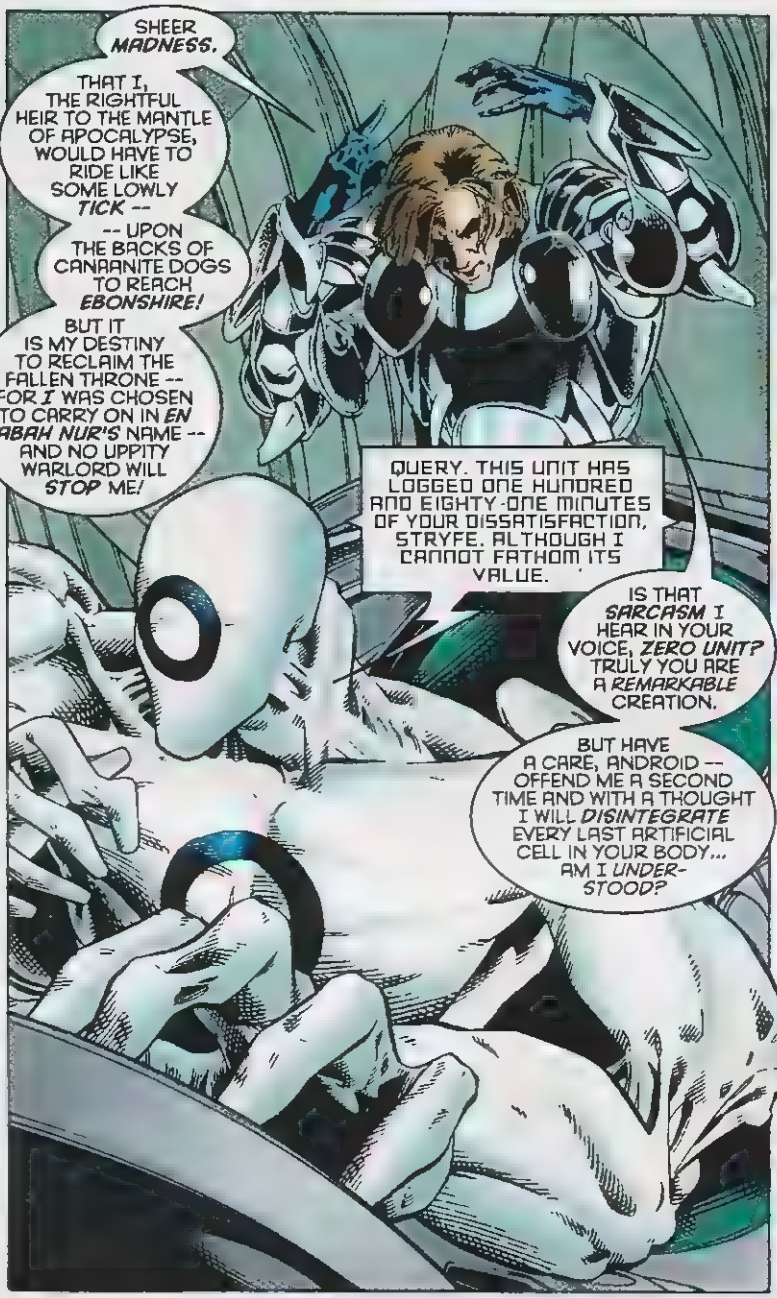
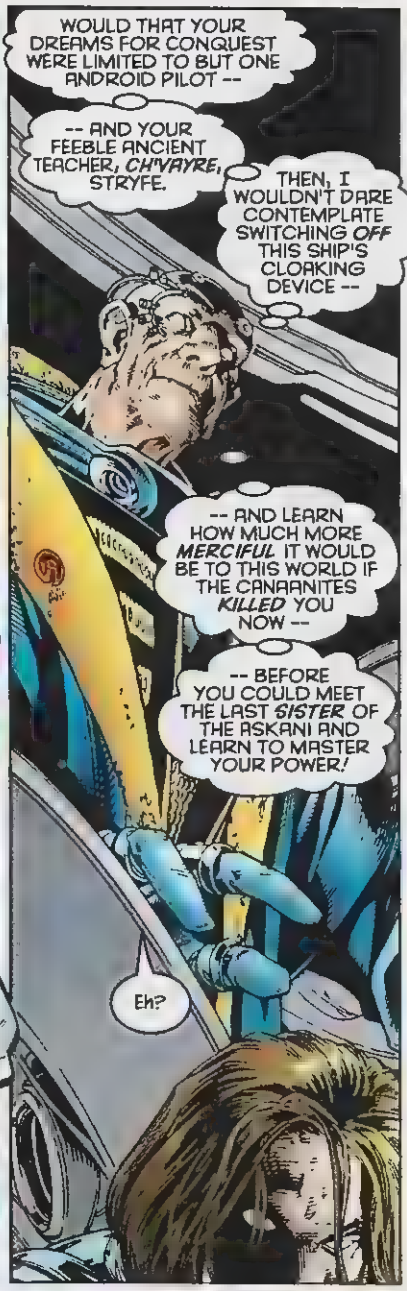
SEGA

IMPRESSED, COLUMBUS?
YOU BEAR WITNESS TO THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA FOR US ALL.
ONE WHERE CANAANITE RULE WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY -- AND RETURN MANKIND TO AN ERA OF PROSPERITY UNKNOWN SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF APOCALYPSE.
IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY, TRIBUNE HAIGHT, THEN I'M CONTENT.
IT MATTERS LITTLE TO THE PIRATES AND MERCENARIES THAT I BRING YOU TO THE HIDDEN LAND.
AS LONG AS WE GET PAID.
YOU'LL EARN THAT GOLD, SURE ENOUGH.
AND YOU'LL DO IT WITH A MEASURE OF RESPECT THAT IS DUE --
WHY YOU LOUSY, STINKIN' --!!
EH?
COLUMBUS! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
CAN'T YOU EVEN CONTROL YOUR OWN LOATHSOME CREW?!
TOOM TOOM TOOM
BEG PARDON, TRIB.
MONIKER'S "PLOUGH."
I OVER'EARD THOSE BLOKES WANTIN' TO TERMINATE YOU, I DID.
ONLY I GOTS TO THEM FIRST, I DID.
THEN YOUR EFFORTS ARE LAUDABLE, "PLOUGH."
AND I'LL REMEMBER TO KEEP YOU CLOSE BY, MY NEW FRIEND, WHEN THE WARRING STARTS...


AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
... CLOAKED FROM ANY SENSOR THE ARMADA MIGHT HAVE AT ITS DISPOSAL...
... THE FINAL PLAYER IN THIS DRAMA IS REVEALED.
STRYFE: THE CHAOS BRINGER.
MADNESS.
THE GENETICALLY-CLONED DUPLICATE OF DAYSPRING WHO COULD NOT BE ANY MORE UNLIKE HIS TWIN.


SHEER MADNESS.
THAT I, THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE MANTLE OF APOCALYPSE, WOULD HAVE TO RIDE LIKE SOME LOWLY TICK --
-- UPON THE BACKS OF CANAANITE DOGS TO REACH EBONSHIRE!
BUT IT IS MY DESTINY TO RECLAIM THE FALLEN THRONE -- FOR I WAS CHOSEN TO CARRY ON IN EN SABAH NUR'S NAME -- AND NO UPPITY WARLORD WILL STOP ME!
QUERY. THIS UNIT HAS LOGGED ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE MINUTES OF YOUR DISSATISFACTION, STRYFE. ALTHOUGH I CANNOT FATHOM ITS VALUE.
IS THAT SARCASM I HEAR IN YOUR VOICE, ZERO UNIT? TRULY YOU ARE A REMARKABLE CREATION.
BUT HAVE A CARE, ANDROID -- OFFEND ME A SECOND TIME AND WITH A THOUGHT I WILL DISINTEGRATE EVERY LAST ARTIFICIAL CELL IN YOUR BODY... AM I UNDERSTOOD?


WOULD THAT YOUR DREAMS FOR CONQUEST WERE LIMITED TO BUT ONE ANDROID PILOT --
-- AND YOUR FEEBLE ANCIENT TEACHER, CHVAYRE, STRYFE.
THEN, I WOULDN'T DARE CONTEMPLATE SWITCHING OFF THIS SHIP'S CLOAKING DEVICE --
-- AND LEARN HOW MUCH MORE MERCIFUL IT WOULD BE TO THIS WORLD IF THE CANAANITES KILLED YOU NOW --
-- BEFORE YOU COULD MEET THE LAST SISTER OF THE ASKANI AND LEARN TO MASTER YOUR POWER!
Eh?

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"FEEBLE" IS RIGHT, YOU USELESS FOOL.
YOUR BRAIN HAS BECOME SO ADDLED THAT YOU FORGET WE ARE PSI-LINKED --
-- AND I KNOW YOUR EVERY THOUGHT. EVERY TRAITOROUS, MALICIOUS, HATEFUL THOUGHT.
AND SINCE YOU NO LONGER HAVE A USE FOR THAT EMPTY SHELL OF A MIND --
-- I KNOW YOU WON'T MIND MY REARRANGING IT!
AARRGH!
UNIT DESIGNATE ZERO DOES NOT COMPREHEND YOUR ACTIONS, STRYFE.
CH'VAYRE POSED NO REAL THREAT, YET YOU PUNISHED HIM WITHOUT TERM DESIGNATE MERCY
WHY?
BECAUSE I COULD, ZERO. AND AS CH'VAYRE HAS SUFFERED --
-- SO SHALL EVERYONE WHO DRAWS A BREATH SUFFER MY LEGACY.
IF ONLY SOMEWHERE IN THAT SOULLESS FACE, THE ANDROID ZERO HAD A TRACE OF EMOTION, SURELY IT WOULD SEE THE INSANITY BEFORE HIM.
IF ONLY IT WOULD ACT TO STOP SUCH A THREAT.
IF ONLY...

EBONSHIRE.
ALL I'M SAYING, ALIYA, IS THAT I'M NOT STICKING AROUND HERE LONG ENOUGH --
-- FOR SANCTITY TO TURN ME INTO SOME SORT OF MINDLESS SYCOPHANT.
AND I ONLY ASK THAT YOU DO NOT JUDGE ALL THE TEACHINGS OF ASKANI -- -- AND OUR CORE BELIEFS ON --
...
ON WHAT?
ALIYA?
ALIYA?!?
OATH! SHE'S BEEN MIND-WIPED!
I AM BEGINNING TO THINK I'VE WASTED MY TIME ON SOME KIND OF IDIOT.
STEP OUT OF THE SHADOWS, VILLAIN, AND WE'LL SEE WHICH ONE OF US IS THE IDIOT!

IT ISN'T THE RASPY VOICE WHICH REVEALS TO DAYSPRING THAT HIS "FOE" INTENDS NO HARM --
WHAK
-- BUT, RATHER IT IS THE SHARP STING OF A BO STAFF THAT REMINDS NATE HIS ENIGMATIC MENTOR, BLAQUESMITH, WAS RETURNED
REALLY.
DID I OR DID I NOT TELL YOU THAT YOUR DESTINY LIES HERE IN EBONSHIRE?
TO EDUCATE YOURSELF IN THE WAYS OF THE ASKANI?
BLAQUE-SMITH?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING, LITTLE MAN?
DO YOU KNOW THIS GREAT TEACHER YOU RECOMMENDED IS SOME HALFSCAN WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR?!
I NEVER SAID THAT SANCTITY WAS THE ONE.
THEN, WHO --?
HER..?

ALIYA..?
SO, THEN, WHICH OF US IS THE "IDIOT"?
IT WOULD HAVE *HELPED* IF YOU'D JUST *TOLD* ME SHE WAS THE ONE.
WHY DOES EVERY-THING YOU SAY HAVE TO BE SO CRYPTIC?
NOTHING IS AS SIMPLE AS IT SEEMS.
NEVER. YET ALWAYS.
SEE! YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN!
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'M GONNA *CRACK* OPEN THAT HEAD OF YOURS AND --
WAIT! DON'T GO! THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK YOU!
NO, ALIYA, I MEANT -- -- FORGET IT.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NATHAN? YOU SEEM *CONFUSED*.
YEAH, WELL, YOU'D BE TOO IF --
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
YOU WERE THE ONE TALKING ABOUT LEAVING.
THE LONG PATH TO YOUR DESTINY BEGINS WITH THE FIRST STEP.
G'JOURNEY, NATHAN...
NATHAN
PROFESSOR?! NOW WHAT?!
I BELIEVE THE COLLOQUIAL EXPRESSION IS --

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DUCK!
AMONG THE MANY GIFTS WHICH LIFE HAS BESTOWED ON DAYSPRING, NONE IS MORE UNIQUE THAN "PROFESSOR".
PLUCKED LITERALLY FROM HIS CHEST CAVITY, AND REALIZED AS LITTLE MORE THAN A VOICE IN DAYSPRING'S HEAD, THE TECHNO-SENTIENT BEING SERVES AS FRIEND, ADVISOR --
-- AND AT THIS MOMENT, A LIFESAVER.
ALIYA, GET DOWN!
HE -- THREW HIMSELF ON TOP OF ME.
ALL AT ONCE, HE IS BOTH ARROGANT AND SELF-ABSORBED --
-- AND YET, IN THE PITCH OF BATTLE, TOTALLY SELFLESS AND WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIS VERY LIFE.
WHAT SORT OF MAN ARE YOU, NATHAN DAYSPRING?
AND WHY IS IT I WISH TO KNOW YOU MORE?

"TODAY WILL BE A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER."
AS THE BOMBS DROP MERCILESSLY FROM THE CANAANITE ARMADA, THE IRONY OF MADAME SANCTITY'S WORDS IS NOT LOST ON THE INNOCENTS BELOW.
FOR IN THIS ACTION, THE CANAANITES HAVE ESCALATED THEIR DESIRE FOR CONQUEST TO A NEW LEVEL.
UNTIL TODAY, THEY PREACHED ONLY FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY AND THE UNITY OF ALL FAITHS.
YET THIS GATHERING OF ASKANI WORSHIPERS IN FAR OFF AND CAREFULLY HIDDEN EBONSHIRE POSED NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THEIR REALM.
ASSUREDLY, NOW THAT WILL ALL CHANGE.
FOR THE WORLD WILL SOON LEARN THAT THEY MAY HAVE TRADED ONE FALLEN TYRANT --
-- ONLY TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE MAD WORKINGS OF ANOTHER.

NOOO!
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO DEFILE THIS HOLY SHRINE!
YOU WILL NOT TAKE AWAY WHAT THE BRIGHT LADY HERSELF BESTOWED UPON ME.
YOU WILL NOT!!
THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO SURVIVE THIS DAY THAT WILL NEVER COMPREHEND WHAT THEN HAPPENED.
FOOL! COME ABOUT, YOU'VE SENT US RIGHT --
HOW THE CANAANITE PILOTS, SEEMINGLY WITHOUT A WILL OF THEIR OWN, CRASHED THEIR SHIPS INTO ONE ANOTHER.
KRTRASH!!
COLUMBUS!
I CANNOT HERVE THIS
RESTORE ORDER TO YOUR CREW, NOW.
I'M, UM, OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS
MAGNIFICENT
THE ASKANI WITCH SPINS PSIONIC ENERGY LIKE STRAW INTO GOLD.

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I MUST HAVE HER, ZERO!
I MUST BE AS ADEPT AS SHE AND THEN SURPASS EVEN THAT!
MEANWHILE, BURIED IN THE DEBRIS BELOW...
NNGNN--
NEVER HELD A TK SHIELD THAT LONG.
I... THANK YOU... NATHAN...
ARRGH!
PROFESSOR -- YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME HERE. MY GUTS ARE ON FIRE!
I AM ANALYZING THE SITUATION AS WE SPEAK. THE TECHNO-VIRUS IS ADVANCING TOO RAPIDLY.
BY THE BRIGHT LADY! NOW I SEE WHY HE RARELY USES HIS POWERS.
N-NATHAN, LET ME HELP.
NO! I DIDN'T EVEN WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
I CAN CONTROL IT -- I KNOW I CAN!
I KNOW YOU CAN, TOO. CONCENTRATE. YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH OF WILL TO MAKE YOUR OWN BODY DO ANYTHING.
YOU... YOU SOUND SO CERTAIN...

ZRAAK
ALIYA!
TOUCHING.
I'LL ALMOST HAVE DIFFICULTY DECIDING WHICH OF YOU TO ERASE FIRST.
ALMOST.
UMBRIDGE, YOU OWE YOUR LIFE TO US!
YES, AND THAT ALMOST MAKES UP FOR MY OWN STUPIDITY FOR NOT KILLING DAYSPRING WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED HIM®.
PROFESSOR, I NEED A FIX ON THIS SITUATION, NOW!
OF COURSE, NATHAN.
YOUR TELEKINETIC ENERGY IS SPENT. YOUR COMPANION IS SEVERELY WOUNDED.
OATH! I NEED OPTIONS!
BASICALLY YOU HAVE NONE.
THIS MUST BE VERY EXCITING FOR YOU. YOU'RE ALL SO FOND OF INVOKING THE NAME OF THE LONG DEAD "BRIGHT LADY" --
-- AND NOW YOU'RE ABOUT TO JOIN HER.
IN ASHANT'SON #1
-- Bob!

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SWUFKT
BIT O' BAD LUCK, SHE HAD, DIDN'T SHE?
YOU'LL BE WANTIN' T' FOLLOW ME NOW, I GUESS.
OUTSIDE, THE GLORY THAT WAS EBONSHIRE.
A WORLD WHERE GENETICALLY-ALTERED VEGETATION RAN AMOK...
... SO MUCH SO, IT WAS DEEMED "UNINHABITABLE"...
... IT NOW TEETERS ON THE BRINK OF ULTIMATE RUIN...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'VE GOT MUCH OF A CHOICE...
NAY.

FABLED EBONSHIRE.
WHERE THE LAST BASTION OF ASKANI TEACHING STOOD.
WHERE THAT ONCE LEGENDARY BAND OF TELEPATHS...
... IS REDUCED TO ONE SLIGHTLY MAD MEMBER. THUS DO LEGENDS END.
MOTHER ASKANI, GIVE ME STRENGTH!
LET ME BE THE CHANNEL FOR YOUR GLORIOUS RAGE --
-- SO THAT WE MAY SMITE THE ENEMY AND PROTECT THESE HALLOWED HALLS!
FIRE FORWARD THRUSTERS!
NOW!
... BY THE BRIGHT LA...
SHE-- SHE'S DEAD.
NATHAN,. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS? SHE WAS THE LAST REPOSITORY... SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD REMEMBER MOTHER ASKANI.
ALL THE HOPES AND PROMISES THAT KEPT THE CLAN ASKANI ALIVE THROUGH THE CENTURIES --
-- THEY'RE... GONE.

AND WHILE DAYSPRING AND THE OTHERS WATCH AS SANCTITY IS CONSUMED IN A FIERY MASS...
... THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION IS SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.
FOR AT THE SAME MOMENT, ABOARD STRYFE'S SHIP...
LEST YOU WONDER, ASKANI WOMAN, I HAVE MADE ALL YOUR WITNESSES BELIEVE YOU HAVE PERISHED.
A MARTYR TO YOUR BELOVED CAUSE.
A TELEPATH, AND ONE OF ENORMOUS PSIONIC ENERGY.
COMING FROM YOU, I WILL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
WHY HAVE YOU REMOVED ME FROM THE BATTLE? WITH THE MEREST WHIM I COULD OBLITERATE YOU, WHELP.
HAVE A CARE TO WHOM YOU SPEAK.
FOR I DO NOT OFFER YOU A LIFE OF SLAVERY OR SERVITUDE --
-- BUT A PLACE AT THE SIDE OF ONE WHO IS FATED TO RULE THIS PLANET.
-- AND YOU ARE ONE OF THE HATED ASKANI --
-- I SEE THAT YOU REVEL IN YOUR POWER. IMAGINE WHAT WE COULD DO... TOGETHER.
GLORY! HIS... HIS PSI-SIGNATURE... IT IS NEARLY IDENTICAL TO "THE CHOSEN ONE".
I DO NOT KNOW TO WHOM YOU REFER, MIND WITCH. BUT I WAS CHOSEN BY EN SABAH NUR HIMSELF.
AND THOUGH I AM THE PROPER HEIR OF APOCALYPSE --
THE RESEMBLANCE... UNCANNY!
WE COULD DO MUCH, BOY, MUCH.
AND THUS IS MADE A MATCH STEEPED IN A LUST FOR CONQUEST...
... WHILE DROWNING IN A SEA OF MADNESS!
FZAAAKKK

BOARD THE LEAD CANAANITE SHIP...
CHALK THIS ONE UP IN THE LOSS CATEGORY, HAIGHT.
I CAN GET US TO AN ESCAPE POD --
THEN, DO IT QUICKLY, COLUMBUS.
FOR HE WHO LIVES TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY--
-- WHAT!
BEG PARDON, TRIB.
BUT YOU MIGHT NOT BE WANTIN' TO SPLIT AND RUN JUS' YET.
NOT WITHOUT THESE TWO HOSTAGES.
PLOUGH! CAN IT BE THAT IN AN OCEAN OF FOOLS, A PEARL?
THE SO-CALLED ASKANI'SON AND ONE OF THOSE TELEPATHIC WITCHES!
THE CANAANITE DESTINY MAY YET BE FULFILLED!
ONE THING I CAN PROMISE YOU, BOY.
THEY WON'T BE HEARING IT FROM YOU.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PLOUGH?
WE'LL SEE.
YOU HAVE WON NOTHING, TODAY.
FOR THE WORLD WILL HEAR OF YOUR ACTIONS AND KNOW YOU FOR THE EVIL THAT YOU ARE.
FZAAKKK

COLUMBUS!
PLOUGH, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
THE MEANING TRIB, IS
-- YOU'VE BEEN HAD.
THE NAME'S TETHERBLOOD AND JUST BEING IN THE SAME PROVINCE WITH YOU MAKES ME SICK.
BUT, I CAN FIX THAT TOO --
NO, TETHERBLOOD. I WANT HIM ALIVE.
IF YOU WANT ME TO BEG FOR LIFE, YOU'LL BE SURELY DISAPPOINTED, BOY.
HARDLY, CANAANITE.
NATHAN. I HAVE CO OPTED THE ESCAPE POD. WE CAN EXIT ON YOUR SAY-SO.
THANKS, PROFESSOR. I'VE GOT JUST ONE LAST DETAIL BEFORE WE GO.
REMEMBER THIS LONG AND HARD, HAIGHT.
OOMPH
"TODAY IS A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER."
WHILE WE BOTH HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES, YOURS WILL PROVE TO BE THE GREATER.
FOR TODAY, A LINE HAS BEEN DRAWN IN THE SAND...

"IT WON'T MATTER IF IT IS CALLED *CANAANITE*, OR *APOCALYPSE*, OR IF IT TAKES *ANY* OTHER NAME --
"-- I LEAVE YOU ALIVE TO TELL YOUR SUPERIORS THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS A *DARKNESS* ON THIS LAND --
"-- WHERE MAN, HUMAN *OR* MUTANT, IS OPPRESSED FOR HIS *BELIEFS* OR FORCED INTO *SLAVERY* BY BIRTH --
"-- THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A LIGHT TO CAST OUT THE LIKES OF YOU.
"WE WILL BE KNOWN AS *THE CLAN CHOSEN* --
"-- AND WE'LL BE LED BY THE
ASKANI'SON

BULLPEN

THE RETURN OF THE DREAM TEAM

Starting this September, *artists extraordinaire* **Jim Lee** and **Rob Liefeld** are going to lend their creative genius to four of the *coolest, hippest, freshest, phattest, defest* (insert you own favorite expletive here...) books in all of modern comicdom! Jim will donate his unique style of penciling to the creation of the undisputed *World's Greatest Comic Magazine* -- the FANTASTIC FOUR -- as well as the exploits of that blazing bomber in the suit of amazing armor -- AKA the invincible IRON MAN!

And while he's busy with this amazing assignment, Rob's gonna have his own hands full when he reports for penciling detail on the all-new, all-exciting adventures of Marvel's very own super-patriot, that Sentinel of Liberty known as CAPTAIN AMERICA. Plus, he's gonna be the chronicle-meister of the calamities and catastrophes of the Earth's Mightiest Heroes -- the AVENGERS!!!

For those of you who didn't know it, Rob himself was responsible for the creation of both Cable and X-Force, and Jim was one of the artists who helped launch the second X-MEN series -- the best-selling comic book of all time! With achievements like these under their belts, you can imagine why we're so jazzed to be workin' with these guys again after all these years.

Hmph... and the NBA thinks they know how to draft a "Dream Team"...

BACHALO'S BACK... AND HE'S BETTER THAN EVER!

Hear ye, O GENERATION X fans! Douse the candlelights and return the candelabras to their mantles. Cease your sleepless vigil and get yourselves some much-needed rest. The time has come at last to unite in song and rejoice, for your long wait has finally come to an end. That's right, folks -- GENERATION X series co-creator **Chris Bachalo** has finally returned to the flock!

With this month's exciting installment -- issue #17 to be precise -- Chris will rejoin former partners-in-comics, *Scott Lobdell, Mark Buckingham, Richard Starkings* and *Steve Buccellato* to resume his penciling duties as GENERATION X's resident visual storyteller!

And as we welcome home our much-missed Chris, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing artists who not only held the fort while he was gone, but also contributed their unique styles to the constantly-evolving look of this popular book. So, take a bow *Roger Cruz, Tom Grummett* and *Val Semeiks*...we totally appreciated the work you did, and want you to know that you'll always be aces in our book!

IN MEMORIAM

On March 6, 1996, Marvel Comics bid a final farewell to one of its favorite sons when **Jolly Jack Abel** passed away in his home away from home, the Marvel Bullpen. A *penciler*, an *inker* and, in his final days a *proofreader*, Jack gave his all to comics, and in return, all our lives were enriched by his efforts.

And while his credits would probably fill an entire comic book, most notable among Jack's artistic achievements was his inking contribution to INCREDIBLE HULK #181 & #182 -- the very first appearances of the Canadian X-Man, *Wolverine!*

He is survived by his wife, *Adele*, his son, *Gary*, daughter, *Randi* and his beautiful granddaughter, *Kelly*.

UP & COMING COMICS:

DAREDEVIL

Of all the characters in the Marvel Universe, there are none as recognizable as -- yet hardly-recognized than -- *Matt Murdock*, that paragon of justice, better known throughout the mean streets of Hell's Kitchen as **Daredevil!**

So, for those of you who aren't as familiar with DD as the rest, we're gonna give you a sneak peek at what's going on with the Man Without Fear nowadays! We're so confident that once you check out this shot of Ol' Hornhead himself -- expertly rendered by DAREDEVIL's hot, new series artist *Cary Nord* -- you're gonna keep comin' back month after month for more; we triple dog dare ya not to!

THE WISH LIST

ON SALE *THIS* WEEK

CABLE #33 Why is Onslaught's number one emissary -- the monolithic *Post* -- after Cable? Could this be a test of the Askani'son's mettle...or does Onslaught have him slated for ultimate destruction? Don't miss this titanic clash!
By Jeph Loeb and Ian Churchill!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #453 The cataclysmic conclusion to the soon-to-be-classic "Man Without A Country" storyline! With the President of the United States slated for assassination, and Cap in exile half a world away, the Star Spangled Avenger has no choice but to turn to the one person who can help...*Doctor Doom!*
By Mark Waid and Ron Garney!

DAREDEVIL #354 Evil better beware when ol' Hornhead gets back his former red fightin' togs and teams up with none other than everybody's *friendly neighborhood Amazing Spider-Man* himself! And if Matt Murdock has returned to his legal practice, why in the world would he want to track down the monstrous *Mr. Hyde?!?*
By Karl Kesel and Cary Nord!

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE #1 An "Eyes Only -- Top Secret" prequel to this summer's blockbuster espionage thriller starring Hollywood mega-star *Tom Cruise!* Not only is this double-sized book action-packed, but it features a kickin' cover and 6-page story by one of the hottest pencilers around -- *none other than* **Rob Liefeld** *himself!!!*
By Rob Liefeld, Marv Wolfman and Pino Rinaldi!

SPIDER-MAN 2099 #45 The world of tomorrow takes a turn for the worse when the melting polar ice caps flood Downtown's grime-ridden streets, and Spidey has to first tackle the grotesque *Goblin* if he's ever going to save the drowning masses! Guest-starring the Fantastic Four's *Mister Fantastic!*
By Ben Raab, Terry Kavanagh and Mike McKone!

SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #6 Can the daughter of the infamous Burglar who murdered Uncle Ben reconcile her love for Ben Reilly -- and her hatred for the Sensational Spider-Man -- now that she knows they really are one and the same?!?
By Dan Jürgens and Klaus Janson!

UNCANNY X-MEN #334 Why has *Juggernaut* gone to the Xavier Institute to enlist Jean Grey's telepathic help? Because he's got a secret of grave importance to tell, but thanks to the power of Onslaught -- he can't remember it! Can the X-Men help him recall the information that may save them against the coming catastrophe?
By Scott Lobdell and Joe Madureira!

ON SALE *NEXT* WEEK

THE ADVENTURES OF THE X-MEN #4 How much can one man do against an entire horde of *N'Garai* demons? Well, when that one man just so happens to be the X-Men's one-eyed leader -- *Cyclops* -- you can bet that those evilspawns are gonna have a heckuva hard time conquering our world!
By Ralph Macchio and Ben Herrera!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #413 What in the world could have turned everyone's friendly neighborhood wall-crawler into a toy-sized version of his normal web-slinging self? Find out here, in this sizzling, self-contained story!
By Tom DeFalco and Mark Bagley!

GENERATION X #17 With his fellow gifted youngster -- *Chamber* -- wounded in action, *Skin* must go it alone against that watking arsenal of a mutant-hunter known as the *X-Cutioner! This is it, kids...*the issue you've all been waiting for -- the return of GENERATION X co-creator, *Crazy Chris Bachalo!!!* Not only that, but it guest-stars *Stan "The Man" Lee* in living color!!! Oh, and yes -- it was written by *Snazzy Scott Lobdell*, t'boot!

GHOST RIDER #75 This anniversary spectacular has got 'em all, True Believer, as the identity of the mystery villain responsible for outlying Ghost Rider's good name is brought to light once and for all! Guest-starring the original flame-face himself, the stunt-wheelin' John Blaze!!!
By Ivan Velez, Jr. and Salvador Larroca!

PROFESSOR XAVIER & THE X-MEN #9 Meet one of the most mind-boggling mutants of all when the *Beast* quits the X-Men to become a pro-wrestler, and the strangest teens of all go up against the one untouchable might of the man called *Unus!*
By Jorge Gonzalez and Nick Gnazzo!

THOR #500 The fate of Asgard hangs in the balance as terrible Trolls and ferocious Frost Giants plunge the Golden Realm into a full-scale war that not only threatens to divide it in two -- but the Thunder God and the *Enchantress*, as well! You dare not miss this double-sized anniversary of epic proportions with its mighty wraparound cover, lest the forces of darkness smite you, too!
By Bill Messner-Loebs and Mike Deodato,Jr.!

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN #11 What do you get when you cross the super-charged power of Electro and the slippery shocks of the Eel? Well, much to Spidey's dismay, you get a *real* "electric company!"
By Kurt Busiek and Pat Oliffe!

X-FACTOR #124 With new members like *Sabretooth, Mystique* and *Wild Child*, it's clear that X-Factor is headed in an entirely new direction. But the real questions are why, and at whose request? And if these mysteries weren't bad enough, X-Factor must face the deadly power of the *Hound!*
By Howard Mackie and Jeff Matsuda!

X-NATION 2099 #5 Their home destroyed by the invading Atlantean forces, X-Nation is forced to survive on the dirty back-streets of Halo City. Little do they realize that danger lurks behind every corner and somewhere in the shadows, stalking them, is *Exodus!!!*
By Ben Raab, Terry Kavanagh and Eric Battle!

[bulletins]

OVERREACTING?

NO I'M NOT, IT'S **HUGE**. IT'S UGLY. IT'S THE HUGEST UGLIEST ZIT ANYBODY'S EVER HAD. AND TO BLAST IT INTO THE NEXT SOLAR SYSTEM IS GOING TO TAKE SOMETHING WICKED. SOMETHING POWERFUL. **SOMETHING** THAT DOESN'T JUST DEEP CLEAN BUT HAS **MORE KILLER STUFF** IN IT THAN THE NUMBER ONE PAD TO ZAP ZIT. AND THAT SOMETHING IS THIS **RIGHTEOUS** LITTLE PAD FROM **CLEARASIL®**.

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CONTINUING THE EPIC TALE OF THE EARLY YEARS OF THE MAN CALLED CABLE!
He's young, impulsive, questions everything, and happens to be possessed of untold mutant power — he is Nathan Dayspring Summers...the *Askani'son!*
Two thousand years in the future, the mutant despot APOCALYPSE is no more — overthrown by Nathan and his 'parents,' the mysterious *Redd* and *Slym*. But instead of reaping the benefits of a long-fought-for peace, society stands on the precipice of civil war. For in Apocalypse's absence, factions move in the shadows, grasping at his vacant throne. While the deceitful NEW CANAANITES consolidate their growing political power, the High Lord's heir—the boy known as STRYFE — flexes his enormous mutant abilities and plots his bloody ascension.
Now, without the guidance of his parents, young Nathan must rely on the enigmatic BLACKSMITH — one of the last adherents to the ways of the Askani and Dayspring's lone connection to the legacy of his family.
Against vast opposition on two sides, with his fierce mutant powers manifesting themselves and joined by a strange new ally who will follow him through time, this young man is the Chosen One — the only hope of a desperate world!
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